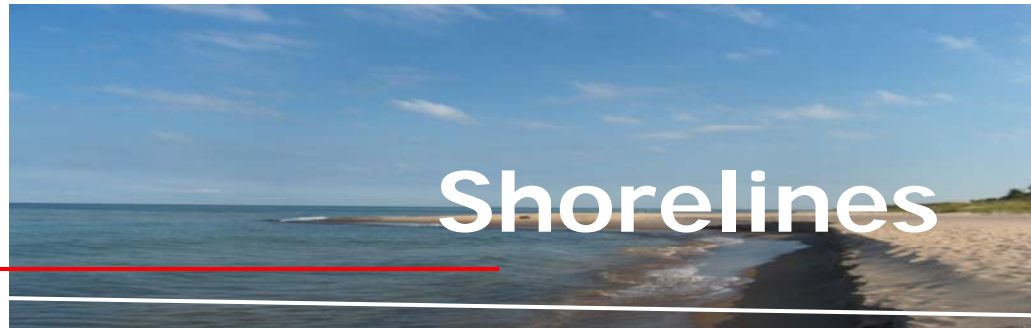


April 2007

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LMCP Restores its Shoreline

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- Coastal Management Activities in your watershed
- Indiana's Coastal Grants Program
- Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program
- Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program

Shorelines is coming back !!

Shorelines is the quarterly newsletter of the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program (LMCP). The newsletter is dedicated to bring you feature stories, news items, and upcoming events from our staff and Program partners in coastal Indiana. Learn about the many LMCP efforts underway to protect coastal resources, including land use planning, acquisition, water quality enhancement and protection, and education and outreach programs. You'll find out about how citizens are getting involved in these activities, as well as special

events, and much more. In addition, we welcome your input to the newsletter. If you'd like to share your stories about what is happening on Indiana's coast, please send them to: Susan Melnyk at Smelnyk@dnr.IN.gov for publication in the next issue. Please submit items for the next issue by June 29, 2007.

This newsletter is part of our effort to increase communication with our partners and provide information and resources to our stakeholders. Please visit our website at www.IN.gov/dnr/lakemich.



Mike Molnar, the manager of
Indiana's LMCP

Indiana's Coastal Communities: How We Grow

Indiana's coastal communities are becoming increasingly aware of current growth patterns- especially what is known as "sprawl". Threats of sprawl in northwest Indiana include: loss of farmland and natural areas, increased air and water pollution, risk to public health and safety, loss of sense of community, and increased pressure on community services and infrastructure. To raise awareness of these impacts of development and to promote strong coastal communities, the LMCP is teaming up with its program partners to promote and support local efforts that foster Smart Growth and Low Impact Development (LID) principles within our coastal communities. LID is an innovative stormwater management approach with a basic

principle that is modeled after nature: infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate, and detain runoff close to its source.

Our partner, Save the Dunes Conservation Fund, hosted a workshop, Improving Development by Design, at the new Porter County Visitors Center where a number of Best Management Practices (BMP's) that treat stormwater runoff at the center were demonstrated. The LMCP supplied a variety of LID and Smart Growth publications for participants and is funding interpretive signs for each BMP at the visitor center to raise community awareness.

The LMCP will be hosting two, two-day Coastal Community Planning and Development Workshops this September as part of Coast

Week. These workshops will actively engage participants in learning about smart growth principles by providing the background, examples, strategies, data, and resources to support alternative development efforts in coastal areas. Through group discussions and engaging activities, participants will be able to apply the knowledge and skills learned in this course to their communities. Each participant will develop a working Community Action Plan as the final activity.

Want to find out more? Contact Joe Exl, Coastal Nonpoint Coordinator, at 219-921-0863.

Up to Date with LMCP

Program Update

It has been a busy quarter! Following up on a year of new programs, exciting projects in Indiana's coastal zone, federal and state agency meetings, new staff projects, and finally, a new Coastal Advisory Board (CAB). Here is a quick update on what has been happening with Indiana's Lake Michigan Coastal Program.

The LMCP is now in its fifth year of operation after receiving federal approval from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), our federal agency partner, in 2002. NOAA began their evaluation of the program in February, 2006 and made a site visit to northwest Indiana, to meet with staff and our Program partners in May, 2006.

NOAA Evaluation

The Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program is one of 34 federally approved coastal programs authorized under the Coastal Zone Management Act. Evaluations take place periodically, and we look forward to the next evaluation which is a good opportunity to meet with our partners and to hear from stakeholders on how they feel the Program is meeting the goals: to protect, restore, and enhance Indiana's coastal natural resources. A public meeting was held as part of the evaluation to hear from anyone we were not able to meet with, including citizens, and other members of the public. The final evaluation findings reflect this input as well as progress in the implementation

of the LMCP, and can be found on our website along with other important Program documents, announcements and information. The address is: www.IN.gov/dnr/lakemich.

During the evaluation period, the LMCP has built an exceptional staff, including three full-time coastal management professionals, staff support, and a special projects coordinator, who among other things, develops and edits the newsletter. The LMCP has also developed partnerships among stakeholders in the coastal watershed. These partnerships include state and federal local government agencies, local landholding trusts and non-profit organizations, academia, and interested citizens. The LMCP has developed a strategic plan that defines the Program vision, goals, and objectives. The plan will provide guidance to the LMCP as it continues to grow.

Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program

Along with our partners and interested citizens, we have also developed Indiana's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) Plan to identify the State's priorities for land conservation, a requirement for participating in the federal funding program. A CELCP Plan is required by NOAA from each state participating in the national Coastal Zone Management Program to compete for national funding consideration from the CELCP.

Funds are targeted for lands that can be effectively managed and protected. The CELCP's stated purpose is to "provide funding for the acquisition and conservation of coastal and estuarine land with significant ecological, conservation, historical, recreational or aesthetic value." Susan Melnyk manages Indiana's CELCP Plan.

Coastal Grants Program

The LMCP has a Coastal Grants Program as one of its main components. This Program provides financial assistance to our partners in their efforts to plan for and provide protection to and encourage balanced development of our state's coastal resources. The Coastal Grants Program is guided by stakeholder input through the CAB where priorities for funding are established as well as guidance for the program.

The LMCP's Coastal Grants Program, managed by Jenny Orsburn, is an annual competitive grants program. It has two purposes: (1) to support projects that preserve, protect, restore and where possible develop Indiana's coastal resources; and (2) to achieve wise use of the coastal region's resources, giving full consideration to ecological, cultural, historic and aesthetic values as well as to the need for economic development. LMCP's large-scale coastal grants award a maximum of \$100,000 per project in three categories: low-cost construction, planning, and research. The limit for land acquisition is \$150,000.

The LMCP also allocates limited funding for small-scale coastal grants that award a maximum of \$5,000 per project. The small-scale grants program was established to fund short-term education, outreach and resource management projects. Contact Jenny Orsburn for more information on Coastal Grants.

Coastal Nonpoint Protection

NOAA's programmatic requirements direct the LMCP to develop a Coastal Nonpoint Program (CNP) in concert with its partners to enhance state and local efforts to manage land use activities that degrade coastal waters. Joe Exl is managing the development of this program and is awaiting conditional approval for the LMCP CNP document submitted to NOAA and the United States Environmental Protection Agency for review in January 2005.

The LMCP has a Coastal Grants Program as one of its main components. The Coastal Grants Program is guided by stakeholder input through the Coastal Advisory Board where priorities for funding are established as well as guidance for the program.

Program Update Cont'd

Education and Outreach

The LMCP's education and outreach programs aim to raise public awareness of coastal issues. For example, we have convened an annual Coast Week planning group of state, local, federal, and nonprofit partners since 2003. We receive strong support from the local business community who has supported and participated in Coast Week.

In 2006, LMCP launched a public design contest for a "Welcome to the Lake Michigan Basin" highway sign. The

sign will be posted at 20 locations throughout the coastal region where major roadways intersect the Lake Michigan drainage basin. The project is intended to raise public awareness of the extent of the drainage area as well as of the importance of Lake Michigan. LMCP, the CAB and DNR voted to select a group of finalists from the 43 entries received. The finalists were posted on the LMCP website for an open public vote to determine the contest winner. The welcome sign design will be unveiled as part of a dedication event early this summer.

Coastal Advisory Board

The Lake Michigan Coastal Program receives input and guidance from the CAB. The CAB is comprised of 27 members, 19 voting and 8 ex-officio. The CAB pro-

vides a forum for public input on regional issues affecting Lake Michigan coastal resources. Meetings are held quarterly and rotate among locations in the coastal region.

Guided by the LMCP Document, which was developed through a combined effort of federal, state, and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the public, the CAB performs vital roles including:

Stakeholder Representation: Providing a diverse perspective on coastal issues and a close connection between the Lake Michigan Coastal Program and local communities and citizens.

Priority Setting: Assisting in setting priorities for the Coastal Grants Program through Board meetings, public meetings, and by recommending grant program guidance and project evaluation criteria.



Public Involvement: Providing a forum for public input on the Coastal Grants Program through annual public meetings for comments on program guidance and through opportunities for public comment at quarterly meetings.

Planning and Coordination: Assisting the LMCP with identifying and planning Coastal Areas of Significance.

Dunes Creek Daylighting Project Received National Award

One of the LMCP's coastal grants projects completed in February 2006, the Dunes Creek Daylighting project, has been presented with the Award of Excellence by the National Association of Conservation Engineers. The project restored a section approximately 500 feet of Dunes Creek within Indiana Dunes State Park. The newly planted vegetation has begun to grow and stabilize the bank. It was expected that it would take more than a year for the biological systems to restore themselves enough to reduce the bacteria levels, but preliminary testing has already showed some reduction in levels.

It is hoped that as the biological systems re-establish, this will improve even more. The project is one of several milestones established to reduce pathogens and restore the Dunes Creek Watershed.

Total cost of the project was \$627,900, of which \$425,000 was provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the DNR's Lake Michigan Coastal Program.



Before and After: Daylighting a portion of Dunes Creek at the Indiana Dunes State Park

What is Indiana Doing About Improving Water Quality?

Indiana's LMCP is working closely with IDEM to develop a Clean Marina Program which will recognize marinas, boatyards, and yacht clubs for complying with state and federal regulations and voluntarily incorporating a number of best management practices. The DNR's Hoosier Riverwatch program collaborates with agencies and volunteers to: 1) increase public involvement in water quality issues through stream monitoring and cleanup; 2) educate local communities about the relationship between land use and water quality; and 3) provide water quality information to citizens and government agencies working to protect Indiana's rivers and streams.

Linking Watersheds and Land Use

Each and every one of us lives in a watershed. A watershed is the land area that drains into a particular body of water (ex. stream, lake, or wetland). The land use decisions we make on a daily basis affect our watershed's health. As rain or snowmelt moves over the landscape it picks up potential contaminants and delivers them to our coastal waters. But proper planning can limit these negative impacts. That's where watershed management comes in. The LMCP is actively participating in a number of watershed management plans in the coastal area including: Trail Creek, Salt Creek, Dunes Creek, Coffee Creek, West Branch of the Little Calumet River, and Deep River/Turkey Creek.

Indiana's Lake Michigan Coastal Program

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The purpose of the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program is to enhance the State's role in planning for and managing natural and cultural resources in the coastal region and to support partnerships between federal, state and local agencies and organizations. The Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program relies upon existing laws and programs as the basis for achieving its purpose

DNR

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

2007 Coastal Grants Update

Each year, NOAA awards grants to federally approved coastal management programs like the LMCP for operations and other activities. As in the past years, the LMCP requested project proposals from their partners to be part of the federal grant application process. A total of 20 project proposals for pass-through grants were received for the 2007 Indiana Coastal grant cycle. The LMCP will fund 17 applications for a total request of \$719,782.00 in federal funds, while providing a local match of \$1,013,391 for a \$1,733,173.00 total investment in Indiana's coastal communities.

Recommended for funding are twelve restoration projects, one land acquisition, one education/outreach, two planning, three public access improvement, and two small grant projects. This represents the most projects funded in one year by the LMCP.



2007 Coastal Program Managers' Meeting

NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management hosted the annual Ocean and Coastal Program Managers' Meeting on March 7-9, 2007 in downtown Washington, D.C. The meeting brings together coastal managers from states, territories, and commonwealths from across the nation and provides a forum for discussion with their federal counterparts on emerging issues in ocean and coastal resource management.

Some of the issues that were discussed this year included:

- *Successes and Challenges in working with Local Partners*
- *Perspectives on Climate Change Impacts on Coastal Communities*
- *Insights and Approaches to Reviewing Energy Proposals*
- *Use of Social Science Tools in Coastal Management*
- *Approaches to Developing Marine Protected Areas*

Great Lakes Day

Great Lakes Day also took place in Washington, D.C. on Capitol Hill, March 6-7. Attended by LMCP staff, the event was hosted by the Great Lakes Commission and the Northeast-Midwest Institute. The event aimed to promote the region's leading state, city and conservation organizations' priorities for the Great Lakes, including:

- *Aquatic Invasive Species*
- *Toxic Sediments*
- *Great Lakes Wetlands*
- *Protection of Water Quality*
- *Great Lakes Restoration Legislation*

Visit <http://www.glrc.org> for more information on Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy

LMPC Calendar of Events

- April 18 CAB Meeting
- April 24 ICRAAT Wetland Indicator Workshop
- May 24-26 Great Lakes Commission Meeting in Indianapolis
- June 24-25 Project Design and Evaluation Workshop at Dunes State Park
- July 18 CAB Meeting
- September 8-15 Coast Week 2007
- September 14, 15 NOAA 200th Anniversary Celebration in Chicago

For more information on these and any other upcoming LMCP events, please contact Susan Melnyk at smelnyk@dnr.IN.gov.